

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 24 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. The present Response cancels claims 3, 11 and 19, amends claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims, 1 -2, 4 - 10, 12 -18 and 20 - 24. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 1 - 2, 4 -10, 12 -18 and 20 - 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,506 to Ukai et al. Claims 3, 11 and 19 rejected on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,506.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to include some of the limitations of dependent claims 3, 11 and 19. In particular, these claims include automatically determining a first selected object of the group. The first selected object is the object of the group selected by a user first. The first selected object is designated as a representative of the group.

Ukai does not disclose or suggest such steps. Ukai automatically designates the most recent version a file or the most recently accessed version of a file as the representative. As the Examiner states, the users in Ukai are free to choose whatever files that he or she wishes to represent the group. This file may coincidentally be the first file selected. However, in the system of independent claims 1, 9 and 10, as amended the default selection is the object selected by the user first. There is no step shown, suggested or given a motivation for in the Ukai reference of automatically determining the first selected object. The system of Ukai has no need to determine the first selected object since this information is not used by the system of Ukai to select the representative. Even in cases when the representative coincidently happens to be the first selected item, the system of Ukai does not suggest that the first selected item is determined. A coincidental designation of the first selected object thus would not anticipate or make obvious the system of independent claims 1, 9 and 17 of the present invention.

Claims 2 and 4 - 8 are dependent upon claim 1 and for that reason are believed to be allowable. Claims 10 and 12 - 16 are dependent upon claim 9 and for that reason are believed to be allowable. Claim 18 and 20 - 24 dependent upon claim 17 and for that reason are believed to be allowable. Claims 3, 11 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

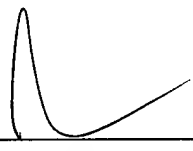
Claims 1 - 2, 4- 10, 12 -18, and 20 -24 remain in the present application. For the above discussed reasons these claims are believed to be allowable and such is respectfully requested.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, August 21, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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